

**TOWN OF DUNE ACRES  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
October 17, 2006**

The Town of Dune Acres Town Council met for its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 17, 2006 at the Town Hall. President John Wilhelm called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with Councilpersons Lou Roberts and Ben Bolton, Clerk-Treasurer Beverly Hubbs, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Sherry King, and Town Attorney Dan Whitten in attendance. John Wilhelm opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance .

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Lou Roberts moved that the minutes for September 19 be approved and filed for audit as presented, Ben Bolton seconded, and the minutes were approved as presented. The minutes for the September 25, 2006, executive session were presented, Ben Bolton moved that they be approved and filed for audit, Lou Roberts seconded, and the minutes were approved as presented.

Sherry King, Deputy Clerk Treasurer, presented the financial report as follows:

**FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF September 30, 2006:**

Porter Bank - Checking	\$ 205258.55
Horizon Bank – 90 Day CD	\$ 55933.80
Chase Bank - Savings	\$ 131142.13
Adjustment	\$ 0.00
Record Balance	\$ 392334.48

Sherry King reported that she had received information that the CEDIT fund distribution for 2007 would be \$13,513.

Lou Roberts moved that the financial report be approved as presented, Ben Bolton seconded, and the financial report was approved unanimously.

**PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:**

After some discussion of the bill for the new VCR for the security system and the bill for the final audit of the former water utility, Ben Bolton moved that the vouchers for October in the amount of \$22998.58 be accepted, Lou Roberts seconded and the motion passed. John Wilhelm said the request for a cell phone for use by the Deputy Clerk-Treasurer is appropriate and the Council agreed to this arrangement.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

John Wilhelm said that he had correspondence from ISO about underwriting insurance for the Clubhouse. Ben said that he had shown a representative of ISO both the Clubhouse and the maintenance building. The town is seeking a better price for insuring these properties.

John also reported on a report from the American Disabilities Act in the form of a report card giving the State of Indiana a grade of C-.

An announcement of an open house concerning the Greenways and Blueways Plan of the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission on October 30th. John Wilhelm said that he plans to attend.

An invitation to attend the Hometown Matters Gathering hosted by IACT taking place in Munster, Indiana, on Thursday, October 26 at 7:00 p.m. was received. John and Atty. Dan Whitten indicated that they will attend.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### MUNICIPAL CODE:

Bill Nixon updated the municipal code books and presented the bill for \$170 for two additional books, a copy for the secretary of the Plan Commission and a copy to loan out. Bill recommended that we pay the outstanding bills for this project. John Wilhelm once again thanked Bill for his untiring work on this project.

#### ROADS & ENGINEERING:

Irv Call reported that debris has been removed on Circle Drive, East Road has been cleaned near house numbers 52 and 54 and on East Beach, and the south side of Shore Drive has been cleaned in front of the pipes. He said that 4 poles have been pulled out at the Clubhouse parking lot. He said that he has ordered salt for the roads and made arrangements for plowing so that we are set for the first snow.

He suggested that we look into some way of enforcing our parking restrictions. Dan Whitten said that he will gather information about the possibility of a traveling town court with an appointed justice pro-tem which could handle such things as parking fines.

Irv said he is working with Clubhouse Coordinator Rick Demkovich about winterizing the reticulation system at the Clubhouse. He also recommended that the Council consider winterizing the Clubhouse instead of keeping it minimally heated all winter. He said that it will cost some money to put heat tape on the lines, put in a new trap door, and generally prepare the building to have the water turned off and the pipes blown. He said it would not take long to turn the water back on and perhaps an hour to re-winterize the building in case there was a need to use it during the winter, once the preparations are in place. He said that he could make a step-by-step guide of how to turn the water on and back off so that anyone could do it who was approved to use the clubhouse. The council approved preparing the building for winterizing but not turning the water off until after the annual Dune Acres Civic Foundation benefit program on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Irv said that after looking at the door in the Clubhouse kitchen he saw that it is rusted, so instead of turning it around he recommended that a new door with a glass window be purchased and installed with the old hardware, which works very well. The Council concurred with this recommendation and approved the purchase.

Irv recommended that logs be replaced on the south and half of the west side of the clubhouse in the spring. He said this will address the leaking in the kitchen and the termite-like infestation in the corner. He endorsed the recommendation by Victor Hood that the outside of the building not be blasted because that may harm the surface. He believes that we could stain the logs to match so that it will look okay as the work is done in stages.

John Wilhelm referred the parking ordinance revision to the Town attorney, Dan Whitten to review and make recommendations to ensure Dune Acres can tow for unauthorized parking on the roads.

#### PARK

Kelly Klein said that they are looking for a liner for the ice skating rink that will last longer, which will be in a price range of \$1,500. She has a bid for the improved garbage containers from Kelly Klawson for \$350 and she wants to fix the steps at the hockey rink, which are presently dangerous. The cost will come from the park budget. Kelly also said that something like a hot dog roast is being planned for the night of Trick or Treat.

#### BUILDING

John Sullivan said that the Gates have asked for a building permit to remodel their kitchen and that Mark Bapst received approval for revised plans for raising his garage floor.

#### SECURITY

Cecilia Call said that the new VCR is an especially heavy duty one which is necessary because it runs 24-7. She asked for clarification about towing cars illegally parked. John Wilhelm said that the matter is still under discussion but towing from the beach parking lot is in order.

#### ENVIRONMENT

Cheryl Evans said that she has been in contact with NIPSCO and that they assure her that they will come to rectify the bad tree cutting as promised. She said that Casey Sullivan has finished his work on the Pitcher Thistle and that there is a balance of \$5459.00 in the grant account.

#### WATER

Ben Bolton said that he will be meeting with American Water soon to discuss projects for next year, which will be mainly on Ridge Drive. He said that there had been a leak at the intersection of Ridge and Circle, which they repaired.

#### OLD BUSINESS

John Wilhelm reported that the Plan Commission approved the new municipal code and recommended it to the Council for adoption. Lou Roberts read Ordinance 2006-1, "An Ordinance Adopting And Enacting A New Code For The Town Of Dune Acres Indiana; Providing For The Repeal of Certain Ordinances Not Included Therein; Providing A Penalty For The Violation Thereof; Providing For The Manner Of Amending Such Code; And Providing When Such Code And This Ordinance Shall Become Effective." Ben Bolton moved to adopt the ordinance, Lou Roberts seconded, and the motion passed. Then Lou Roberts moved to set aside the rule and to have a second reading of the ordinance. Ben Bolton seconded and the motion passed. John Wilhelm called for a reading of the ordinance by title only. Lou Roberts read the ordinance by title only. Ben Bolton moved that the ordinance be adopted, Lou Roberts seconded and the vote to adopt was unanimous. The ordinance was given to Sherry King to be certified, published, and filed.

Ben Bolton read Resolution 2006-2 a Transfer Resolution which establishes a new Construction Security Deposit Fund and approves transferring money previously recorded in the General Fund. Lou Roberts moved to approve this resolution, Ben Bolton seconded, and the motion passed.

Dan Whitten reported that he has asked that the Rainy Day fund be on the agenda for the December meeting, and that he will prepare the paper work to establish the fund at that time.

John Wilhelm reported that the Porter County Visitors Commission is planning to bury a time capsule and he had asked for residents to suggest items to place there. A copy of the information on the Dune Acres web site on a CD and a printed copy of the same have been suggested, also a video from the Historical Group.

John said that Todd Zeiger of Historic Landmark preservation has been very generous in helping us apply for a matching grant of \$50,000 and that more than 15 letters had been submitted by persons interested in supporting the project. He said that the more difficult west side of the building was selected for the grant application because it is the most expensive. He said the Indiana Department of Natural Resources will make their decisions on grants in January. If we receive the grant, work can begin in the spring. John said that he has thanked Todd for all of his effort in this matter.

He said that our application to be on the National Register of Historic Buildings has passed the state and is now at the national level. That decision should come in October.

Mary Chuman reported from the floor about the many problems residents are having with their phones. She said there was an outage on October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> during which time there was an emergency. She said that the outages sometimes affect as many as 20 households but that they are scattered over the town. She said that the problem is in Verizon's equipment. Mary has been in contact with Peter Visclosky and one of his Congressional Aides is taking the matter to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). She provided the Town attorney with printed information about the responsibility of public utilities to their

customers. She recommended that Town residents who have phone outages call Verizon but also go to Peter Visclosky's web site where they will find a link at the top of the page named "Constituent Services" where they can request his office's support in solving the problem. John Wilhelm said that he will be meeting with Peter Visclosky about the Clubhouse this week and that he will discuss the problem with him then as well.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Trick or Treat was set on Tuesday, October 31, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. to coincide with Porter and Burns Harbor. John Wilhelm asked Sherry King to put it on the Town bulletin board.

The Plan Commission approved plans for remodeling at the Krug house at 6 Shore Drive. Ben moved to issue the building permit, Lou seconded, and the motion passed. Sherry King suggested that the Plan Commission have a supply of building permit applications to hand to residents when the plans are approved. The Council agreed and Sherry will get these to John Rearick, Secretary of the Plan Commission.

Lou Roberts agreed that she and Tom will chair the Toys for Kids drive once again. She said they will start in November and end on December 13. She said this is done in cooperation with the Duneland Exchange Club which takes each child on a shopping trip to Kmart and then fills in with donated toys and gifts as well. Flyers will be put in residents mailboxes. Residents have been very generous in the past.

John Wilhelm thanked the committee for the Fiesta Fall Party; this included the Sullivans, the Nixons, and the Tittles who chaired this party. He also expressed the Town's encouragement to John Sullivan who is running in the Chicago Marathon and whom we have all been watching train. He thanked Mike Konapacki and Harold King for installing the clock at the Security Office.

Lou Roberts reminded residents that there will be flu shots on December 2 if the vaccine is available. She also reminded us that the election will be held at the Clubhouse on November 7.

Ben Bolton asked that Commissioners send Mike Konapacki or him a list of routine maintenance in their area of concern as well as special requests they might have. He will send a notice to remind them to do this.

John Wilhelm adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.